

**County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health**  
**OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

Thursday, December 16, 2010

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note the minutes are a brief summary and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

**Larry Gasco Chairman, Presiding**

**I. Call to Order – Larry Gasco**

- The meeting was called to order by Larry Gasco
- Roll Call – Canetana Hurd  
Attendance recorded as follows:  
Absent Excused: Greg Thompson, Ilean Rabens, and Phillip Chen
- Approval of Minutes – **ACTION TAKEN:** November 18, 2010 minutes unanimously approved with modifications. Motion-Sosa/Second-Huffman

**II. Chairman's Report – Larry Gasco**

- **Chair's Comments** – Mr. Gasco spoke on the passing of Larry Wicker, longtime employee of DMH who has been around since its inception. Mr. Wicker was the husband of Dr. Robin Kay and is a great loss to the DMH family.

Mr. Gasco expressed appreciation to Ms. Nancy Tallerino and Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services for hosting the December meeting. Mr. Gasco also thanked the Spanish Translators for their commitment and participation at the monthly meetings.

The following dates are tentative for events in 2011:

January 27 - Joint meeting with Commission on Children and Families

May 26 - 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Program

June 11 - Annual Retreat

- **Executive Committee Meeting Report** – Delores Huffman gave the November 4, 2010 Executive meeting report:
  1. The full commission meeting in January will be a joint meeting with CCF (Commission on Children and Family) on January 27 at the Hall of Administration Room 739.
  2. Dr. Southard discussed; 1) the impact on DMH because of AB 3632 litigation, 2) 1115 Waiver approval and what's next for DMH, and 3) Legislative Report brought by Susan Rajlal.
- **MHC/SAAC Chairs Meeting** – The group met December 14 and discussed updates about each Service Area Advisory Committee. There was also a focus on restructuring certain service areas. Larry Gasco recommended the group invite Yvette Townsend to

the next meeting because she has good advice on reorganizing and standardizing membership rules and goals.

### III. **DMH Report – Carlotta Childs Seagle, DMH Deputy Director**

**Budget** – Realignment funds are flat and not showing growth. Vehicle license funds are slightly up. DMH will watch the State budget to see if newly elected Governor Brown will make changes that impact DMH.

**AB 3632 Funds** – Because of cutting out AB 3632 mandate and State funding by the Schwarzenegger administration, in January 2011 the Board will earmark \$4 million to DMH to continue these services. If Governor Brown does not reinstate the mandate and funding, it is unlikely that LA County will provide funding. Only the clients with Medi-Cal will continue to receive services.

DMH earmarked \$10 million of restored County General Funds to providers a year ago to offset curtailment. About \$1.2 million was collected and not earmarked; now providers are asking to use the funds to offset cost for services. DMH and the SLT Budget Mitigation workgroup will decide how the funds should be allocated.

**Health Care Reform** – The 1115 Waiver is the mental bridge to Health Care Reform. It is the plan for the State to deliver services to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) approval of the plan is based on the following items; health and mental health services integration, and services provided must be revenue neutral. The plan will consist of the following entities:

- Low Income Health Program Demonstration Project
- Medicaid Coverage Expansion (MCE)
- MCE Delivery Models
- Health Care Coverage Initiative

DMH has set up three internal workgroups to develop the integrated care unit. The three workgroups are Outcome Measures, Array of Services, and Quality Assurance. Service delivery is available in three tiers:

- Tier one – various rehabilitation option services available for the target population.
- Tier two – short-term intervention option for individuals seen in primary care settings.
- Tier three – individuals seen in primary care settings who receive or wish only medication management

DMH has been working with Department of Health Services (DHS) to co-locate mental health staff in DHS Comprehensive Health Centers. Kathleen Kerrigan is the lead manager and has identified several sites to co-locate two

Psychiatric Social Workers, and one Medical Caseworker. The first site will be El Monte. These programs will offer early intervention services/short-term interventions. Individuals needing more intensive services will be referred to DMH clinics.

#### **IV. Special Presentation – Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services** Nancy Tallerino, Vice President of Outpatient Services

Vista Del Mar is celebrating 100 years of helping children and families overcome social, emotional, behavioral and developmental challenges. It started as a Jewish orphanage and now has 5 community organizations that offer the following: accredited K-12, adoption and foster adoption, outpatient mental health services, residential care, and VIP (autism and special needs).

Ms. Tallerino introduced two people who discussed their success stories:

- Roberto Flores – 18-year old, 2-year participant discussed the help received with raising two kids. He first faced challenges with the program's rules and boundaries; the center eventually encouraged his strengths and interest to become a responsible parent.
- Perla Rosales – Ms. Rosales engaged in the Wraparound program. She needed help with a family situation. Ms. Rosales stated she had been in many other agencies but Vista was the perfect match to keep her family together safely, building strength, and setting goals.

#### **V. Commissioners' Reports**

**Jerry Lubin** – Mr. Lubin attended an older adult meeting that discussed Part D and drug prescription benefits. The information handed out was resourceful and important for older adults.

**Frank Baron** – Mr. Baron announced the CALMHBC (California Association of Local Mental Health Boards and Commissions) meeting is January 20 – 22, 2011 in San Diego, California.

**Arnold Gilberg** – Dr. Gilberg thanked Vista Del Mar for hosting today's Commission meeting. He stated it is the model program for child welfare.

**Carlos Sosa** – WET (Workforce, Education, and Training) will resume meeting in February 2011 and discuss issues about stipends and employment.

**George Caballero** – Mr. Caballero spoke with members of the Commission for Women to co-sponsor a conference on aging. He met with the CEO at LAC/USC Medical Center on the feasibility of collaborations related to services

to older adults. He also discussed a plan to place interns in clinics to address Health Care Reform issues.

**Delores Huffman** – Ms. Huffman discussed the Client Coalition Activity Fund's new standards for claiming expenses and the BLACCC (Black Los Angeles County Client Coalition) program workshop. The following Housing Report for December was submitted by Ms. Huffman:

### **MHSA Housing Program**

Twenty-nine projects are actively participating in the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing Program at various stages of development. The status of each project as of December 17, 2010 is shown below:

#### **Developing Supportive Service Plan for Public Posting and Comment Period**

- Avalon II Family Apartments

#### **Finalizing Supportive Service Plan for Public Posting and Comment Period**

- Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCD)

#### **Preparing Technical Submission**

- Swarthy World Society Apartments

#### **Invitation to Submit Full Application**

- Parker Hotel
- VOALA Navy Village for Families
- New Genesis Apartments
- David & Margaret Home, Inc. – Cedar Springs Apartments

#### **Application Submitted to the State Pending Approval**

- Figueroa Apartments
- Step Up on Vine (Galaxy Hotel)
- Parkview on the Park Apartments

#### **Approved for Funding by the State**

- Nehemiah Court Apartments
- Progress Place I and II
- Caroline Severance Manor
- Osborne Place Apartments
- Horizon Apartments
- 28<sup>th</sup> St. YMCA Residences
- Menlo Family Housing
- PWC Family Housing
- NoHo Senior Villas
- KIWA Apartments

- Willis Avenue Apartments

#### **Approved for Funding and Initiated Construction**

- Young Burlington
- Courtyards in Long Beach
- Ford Apartments
- Villas at Gower
- Glenoaks Gardens
- Parkview on the Park Apartments \*
- New Genesis Apartments \*
- Epworth Apartments

#### **Open for Occupancy**

- Daniel's Village
- Charles Cobb Apartments

\* Projects under construction awaiting final approval

#### **Housing Trust Fund Program**

As of July 19 2010, the Department added four new housing projects totaling 16 Housing Trust Fund (HTF) Program awardees. 10 projects are in operation one of which is both a shared housing and scattered site project. Through the HTF Program, supportive services are being provided to approximately 235 tenants residing in permanent supportive housing. The services being provided assists formerly homeless individuals and their families maintain their housing and pursue their recovery goals. Bonnie Brae Apartments a senior project located in Service Area 4 was opened for occupancy after a year delay. Construction has begun for Glenoaks Gardens, the Los Angeles Family Housing project located in Service Area 2. Project Home, located in the downtown area of Service 4, opened December 10, 2010. The remaining projects, Cedar Springs and Nehemiah Courts, are new construction slated to begin in the fall of 2011.

#### **Ongoing & Upcoming Activities**

##### **Housing Assistance Program**

The Department provides financial resources for clients moving into housing from homelessness by paying the security deposit and purchasing the basic essentials to furnish their apartment. In addition, financial resources are available to pay one month's rent in arrears to prevent eviction and ongoing rental assistance for qualified clients. The funding sources for the Housing Assistance Program include Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness and MHSA. During the

period July 1, 2010 through December 17, 2010, the Department assisted the following numbers of clients with securing permanent housing:

- 131 clients and/or their families with the security deposit at the time of move-in;
- 200 clients and/or their families with purchasing household goods;
- 5 clients and/or their families with paying for utilities
- 12 clients with eviction prevention; and
- 51 clients with ongoing rental assistance.

### **Emergency Food and Shelter Program**

The Department has submitted another proposal for the EFSP - Phase 29 grant cycle beginning November 1, 2010 through October 31, 2011. The Department requested a total of \$174,000 in the three designated categories: Food (\$74,000), Motel/Hotel voucher (\$60,000) and Rental Assistance (\$40,000). If rewarded these resources will be made available countywide through our directly-operated clinics within the 8 service areas.

#### **VI. Community and SAAC Reports -**

**LACCC** – Pam Inaba, Chair, Los Angeles County Client Coalition, reported the Client's Ball and silent auction were cancelled due to lack of funds and support.

#### **SAAC reports – None**

#### **VII. Public Comments –**

- **Phyllis Coto** – Would like to along with the LA Client Coalition recommend a new name for "Skid Row". After we arrive at a name, we would like to encourage the Mental Health Commission to review it to send to the City Council, e.g. Progress City.
- **Saweko Nitao** – Made an announcement.
- **Pam Inaba** – Announced LA Client Coalition meeting and holiday party details at DMH.
- **Sandra Clayton** – 1) seniors very qualified – trying to compete in the young job market there must be a way to break through to youth focus and work on older adults re-entering the workforce. Most cases the old adults are more dedicated that youth and need this opportunity. 2) regarding increasing social security and we are supposed to just sit back and accept, seniors must have a way to advocate and not be white washed over – any suggestions?
- **Maria N. Tan** – I would like to thank the commission for allowing us to attend today. Also there is a Service Extender Program to enhance the role of SE. A series of training held last month and another one on January 3 at DMH.

**VIII. Meeting adjourned - NEXT MEETING LOCATION**

**Thursday, January 27, 2011**

**Noon – 2:30 pm**

**Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration – Room 739  
500 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Please contact the Commission office at (213) 738 4772 if you need more information

Submitted by Canetana Hurd